

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE: JPBECKER/DANDERSON:RF

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. HARTMAN

H - MR. ENKINS

S/S - JMEALUM

C-MR. SONNENFELDT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, XG

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO EUROPE

FROM HARTMAN FOR AMBASSADOR

1. PLANNING FOR THIS VISIT IS PROGRESSING SLOWLY BECAUSE OF OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES CONNECTED WITH HOLIDAY PERIOD. TENTATIVE PLANS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION CALL FOR ARRIVAL OF GROUP IN BERLIN MARCH 28 WITH DEPARTURE SCHEDULED FOR 1300 HOURS MARCH 31. THESE PLANS ARE, HOWEVER, SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY BERLIN ON HANDLING OF THIS VISIT AND OTHERS WHICH MAY BE PLANNED ON LAST MINUTE BASIS DURING EASTER RECESS OF US CONGRESS.

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2. DEPARTMENT IS GRATEFUL FOR HELPFUL COMMENTS ON SPECIAL

CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO EAST BERLIN PROVIDED IN EMBASSY'S 5388. WE AGREE THAT AT THIS EARLY POINT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GDR IT WOULD NOT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO OVERPLAY A BRIEF VISIT BY US SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. AS PRESENTLY PLANNED, DOD-SPONSORED GROUP WOULD VISIT EAST BERLIN ONLY ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 29, AND WOULD DO SO UNDER AEGIS OF ALLIED ACCESS AND TRAVEL

RIGHTS IN SOVIET SECTOR, I.E. THE GROUP WOULD ARRIVE BY US ARMY BUS WITH A MILITARY DRIVER FOR CUSTOMARY TOUR OF CITY.

----- IN DEPT'S VIEW, ANY SOCIAL OCCASION WHICH THE AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO HOST SHOULD BE LIMITED TO US EMBASSY STAFF AND, AT EMBASSY OPTION, SELECTED DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY GUESTS, AND OFFICIALS CONNECTED WITH GDR EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

3. AS EMBASSY MAY BE AWARE, DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ENCOURAGED HIGH PROFILE CONTACTS BETWEEN US LEGISLATORS AND THEIR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS. THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR THIS POLICY: (A) IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US SIDE TO RECIPRO-CATE VIP TREATMENT WHICH EE'S ACCORD AMERICAN LEGISLATORS, AND (B) SUCH CONTACTS USUALLY SERVE TO ENHANCE STATURE OF EE PARTICIPANTS AND TEND TO MINIMIZE NON-DEMOCRATIC FEATURES OF EE LEGISLATIVE BODIES. MOREOVER, IN MORE NARROW BERLIN CONTEXT, WE WOULD NOT WISH A CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO BE MISINTERPRETED BY WEST BERLINERS, THE FRG OR OUR ALLIES AS A SIGN OF HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN PROMOTING RELATIONS WITH THE GDR.

4. AT THIS POINT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT PROMOTE ANY PUBLICITY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO EAST BERLIN.

5. GDR MAY BE SENSITIVE TO FACT THAT US GROUP ARRIVING IN EAST BERLIN VIA MILITARY TRANSPORTATION. SHOULD THIS SUBJECT BE RAISED BY GDR REPS, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE FOR TRAVELERS. INGERSOLL

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